

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A device for storing a plurality of tissue samples comprising:

an elongate container having a cavity for storing a plurality of tissue samples, an open top, and an open bottom in flow communication with the open top; and

a cutting portion coupled to the open top and configured to cut the plurality of tissue samples that deposit in the cavity through the open top;

a portion of the elongate container adjacent the open bottom having an hour-glass shape defining a restriction smaller than the open bottom to prevent the plurality of tissue samples from passing through the restriction and exiting the container via the open bottom.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the cutting portion selectively couples to the open top of the elongate container and defines a through hole in flow communication with the open top, the cavity, and the open bottom.

3. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the cutting portion comprises an upper jaw and a lower jaw configured to cut tissue when the upper jaw mates with the lower jaw.

4. (Original) The device of claim 3, wherein the lower jaw includes a through hole in flow communication with the open top and the open bottom, and wherein the lower jaw is coupled to the open top of the elongate container such that the through hole is in flow communication with the open top, the cavity, and the open bottom.

5. (Original) The device of claim 3, wherein the upper jaw includes a protrusion configured to push the plurality of tissue samples into the cavity.

6. (Original) The device of claim 5, wherein the protrusion extends around an edge of the upper jaw.

7. (Original) The device of claim 3, wherein the upper jaw is configured to restrict the plurality of tissue samples from adhering to the upper jaw.

8. (Original) The device of claim 3, wherein the upper jaw defines a plurality of holes.

9. (Original) The device of claim 3, wherein at least one of the upper jaw and the lower jaw has a support portion configured to allow the upper jaw and the lower jaw to rotate with respect to each other.

10. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the elongate container includes an angled base wall adjacent the open top.

11. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the elongate container is configured to restrict the plurality of tissue samples from adhering to an inner wall of the elongated container.

12. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the elongated container includes at least one hole on a side wall.

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Previously Presented) A device for storing a plurality of tissue samples comprising:

an elongate container having a cavity for storing a plurality of tissue samples, an open top, and an open bottom in flow communication with the open top, wherein the open top and the open bottom are aligned with a longitudinal axis of the cavity; and
a cutting portion coupled to the open top and configured to cut the plurality of tissue samples that deposit in the cavity through the open top;

wherein a bottom portion of the elongate container closer to the open bottom than to the open top has an hourglass shape configured to prevent tissue samples smaller than the open bottom from exiting the container via the open bottom.

15. (Original) The device of claim 14, wherein the cutting portion selectively couples to the open top of the elongate container and defines a through hole in flow communication with the open top, the cavity, and the open bottom.

16. (Original) The device of claim 14, wherein the cutting portion comprises an upper jaw and a lower jaw configured to cut tissue when the upper jaw mates with the lower jaw.

17. (Original) The device of claim 16, wherein the lower jaw includes a through hole, and wherein the lower jaw is coupled to the open top of the elongate container such that the through hole is in flow communication with the open top, the cavity, and the open bottom.

18. (Original) The device of claim 16, wherein the upper jaw includes a protrusion configured to push the plurality of tissue samples into the cavity.

19. (Original) The device of claim 18, wherein the protrusion extends adjacent an edge of the upper jaw.

20. (Original) The device of claim 16, wherein the upper jaw is configured to restrict the plurality of tissue samples from adhering to the upper jaw.

21. (Original) The device of claim 16, wherein the upper jaw defines a plurality of holes.
22. (Original) The device of claim 16, wherein at least one of the upper jaw and the lower jaw has a support portion configured to allow the upper jaw and the lower jaw to rotate with respect to each other.
23. (Original) The device of claim 14, wherein the elongate container includes an angled base wall adjacent the open top.
24. (Original) The device of claim 14, wherein the elongate container is configured to restrict the plurality of tissue samples from adhering to an inner wall of the elongated container.
25. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 14, wherein the elongated container includes at least one hole in a side wall of the elongate container.
26. (Cancelled).
27. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 14, wherein the bottom portion of the elongate container ~~adjacent~~ closer to the open bottom than the open top has a restriction that is smaller than the open bottom.

28-77. (Cancelled)

78. (Currently Amended) The device of claim [[1]] 90, wherein the portion of the elongate container adjacent to the open bottom is configured to mate with [[a]] the flushing device.

79. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 6, wherein the protrusion is adjacent to the outer edge of the upper jaw.

80. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 79, wherein the protrusion is oval shaped.

81. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 79, wherein the protrusion surrounds an inner non-protruding portion.

82. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 81, wherein the inner non-protruding portion defines at least one ventilating hole.

83. (Currently Amended) The device of claim [[14]] 96, wherein the bottom portion of the elongate container ~~adjacent~~ closer to the open bottom than the open top is configured to mate with [[a]] the flushing device.

84. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 19, wherein the protrusion is adjacent to the outer edge of the upper jaw.

85. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 84, wherein the protrusion is oval shaped.

86. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 84, wherein the protrusion surrounds an inner non-protruding portion.

87. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 86, wherein the inner non-protruding portion defines at least one ventilating hole.

88. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 14, wherein the cutting portion includes a circumferential groove configured to receive a protrusion on the open top.

89. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the portion of the elongate container adjacent the open bottom is closer to the open bottom than the open top.

90. (New) The device of claim 1, further including a flushing device comprising:

an elongate member defining a receiving cavity, an open top, and an open bottom;

a connector proximate the open bottom of the elongate member and configured to provide a fluid tight connection with a source of fluid; and

a nozzle within the elongate member between the open bottom of the elongate member and the receiving cavity;

wherein the open bottom of the elongate member is in flow communication with the open top of the elongate member via the nozzle and the receiving cavity.

91. (New) The device of claim 90, wherein the portion of the elongate container adjacent the open bottom is configured to be coupled to the nozzle of the flushing device such that the nozzle is in flow communication with the cavity of the elongate container.

92. (New) The device of claim 90, wherein the portion of the elongate container adjacent the open bottom is configured to form a substantially fluidtight coupling with the nozzle.

93. (New) The device of claim 90, wherein the portion of the elongate container adjacent the open bottom is configured to be received by a portion of the elongate member adjacent the open top of the elongate member to guide the elongate container into the receiving cavity.

94. (New) The device of claim 90, wherein the cutting portion is configured to be received by a portion of the elongate member adjacent the open top of the elongate member.

95. (New) The device of claim 90, wherein the flushing device is configured to deliver fluid through the open bottom of the elongate container to flush the tissue samples out of the cavity via the open top of the elongate container.

96. (New) The device of claim 14, further including a flushing device comprising:

- an elongate member defining a receiving cavity, an open top, and an open bottom;
- a connector proximate the open bottom of the elongate member and configured to provide a fluid tight connection with a source of fluid; and
- a nozzle within the elongate member between the open bottom of the elongate member and the receiving cavity;

wherein the open bottom of the elongate member is in flow communication with the open top of the elongate member via the nozzle and the receiving cavity.

97. (New) The device of claim 96, wherein the bottom portion of the elongate container closer to the open bottom than the open top is configured to be coupled to the nozzle of the flushing device such that the nozzle is in flow communication with the cavity of the elongate container.

98. (New) The device of claim 96, wherein the bottom portion of the elongate container closer to the open bottom than the open top is configured to form a substantially fluidtight coupling with the nozzle.

99. (New) The device of claim 96, wherein the bottom portion of the elongate container closer to the open bottom than the open top is configured to be received by a portion of the elongate member adjacent the open top of the elongate member to guide the elongate container into the receiving cavity.

100. (New) The device of claim 96, wherein the cutting portion is configured to be received by a portion of the elongate member adjacent the open top of the elongate member.

101. (New) The device of claim 96, wherein the flushing device is configured to deliver fluid through the open bottom of the elongate container to flush the tissue samples out of the cavity via the open top of the elongate container.